

SENATE WATCH

A summary of today's Senate actions; published daily when the Senate is in session.

3/16/04

FINAL PASSAGE

SB 1074 (George)

SB 1074 deletes the "Mackinac Trail" designation on US 131 from the border to Kalkaska. [In February 2004, the Michigan Senate passed Senate Bill 241, which would amend the Michigan Memorial Highway Act to name portions of the I-94 and US-131 highways the "Underground Railroad Memorial Highway". US-131, however, already is designated as the "Mackinac Trail" from the border between Michigan and Indiana to the Straits of Mackinac.]

• SB 1074 passed [RC 132: 37 yes, 0 no].

HB 4308 (Garfield)

HB 4308 would: 1) Change the driver responsibility fee to \$400 (not \$600). 2) Provide that the court SHALL (changed from "may") reverse or alter decisions within 60 days of the passage of this bill, pertaining to no proof of insurance if the person had insurance at the time of the citation, and if the court alters the decision the state SHALL reimburse/waive the driver responsibility fee. 3) Allow the Dept. of State to retain and use digital signatures. 4) Expand the law to include the addition of points from citations issued in other states or substantially corresponding local ordinances and adds a local speed limit violation under the points assessable for driver responsibility fees.

- SCOTT 1 (1 amend) was defeated [no RC]. This would have tie-barred the bill to SB 1099 a bill to prohibit insurance companies from basing auto and home insurance rates based on where a person lives.
- PRUSI 2 (2 amends) was adopted [no RC]. This requires the court to reverse the ticket, provided the driver presents proof that s/he did have insurance.
- SWITALSKI (1 amend) was adopted [no RC]. This reduced the maximum fine for not having insurance from \$100 to \$50.
- LELAND (8 amends) was defeated [no RC].
- HB 4308 passed with IE [RC 133: 32 yes, 5 no].

HB 4707 (Voorhees)

HB 4707 would allow volunteers to issue citations to vehicles that have blocked a clearly identified access isle or access lane that is immediately adjacent to a handicap parking place.

• HB 4707 passed with IE [RC 131: 37 yes, 0 no].

HB 5476 (DeRoche)

HB 5476 puts timelines in place for the suspension of a teaching certificate, as well as adds crimes to the list of those that subject a person to certificate revocation. A person who is convicted has five days to notify and the Superintendent then informs of the possible revocation. The teacher then has 15 days to ask for a hearing. If one is requested, a hearing and decision must be made within 90 working days. The bill adds indecent exposure and providing liquor to a minor as convictions that may cause loss of a license. Convictions that occurred prior to the effective date of these new crimes would only be subject to suspension if the Superintendent finds that it relates to a person's present fitness.

• HB 5476 passed with IE [RC 130: 37 yes, 0 no].

THIRD READING

SB 783 (McManus) SB 784 (Cassis)

<u>SB 783</u> would provide criminal penalties for "hazing" at an educational institution that resulted in injury or death. A violation of the anti-hazing act would be a crime punishable at different levels depending on whether the victim suffered physical injury, serious injury, or death.

- Committee 1 (S-1) was adopted [no RC].
- Cassis 1A (1 amend) was adopted [no RC]. Technical change.
- Patterson 1B (1 amend) was adopted [no RC]. Technical change.
- SB 783 was moved to 3rd Reading.

SB 784 would add the crimes created in SB 783 to the State's Sentencing Guidelines.

- Committee 1 (S-1) was adopted [no RC].
- SB 784 was moved to 3rd Reading.

SB 990 (Bishop)

SB 990 would amend "tolling" of statute of limitations to provide that a civil case would comply with the statute of limitations once the complaint is filed with the court as opposed to the time period continuing to run until the defendant was served. The copy of the summons and complaint would be served upon the defendant within the time set for in the current court rules.

"Tolling" refers to the temporary suspension of time with respect to a statute of limitations. In this situation, it would mean that the time period for the statute of limitations would stop once the complaint was filed with the court and not continue to run until the defendant was served. This bill is necessary to ensure that cases that are filed in a timely manner are not dismissed because service was not performed prior to expiration of the statue of limitations.

Support: The Michigan Trail Lawyers Association.

• SB 990 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments.

RESOLUTIONS

SR 219 (Allen)

SR 219 urges the United States Department of Energy to develop the Rare Isotope Accelerator at Michigan State University.

• SR 219 was adopted [no RC].